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NARROW ESCAPE FROM WAR WITH ENGLAND.

Most persons seemed to take it for granted, that Lord Ashburton's mission to this country, removed at once all danger of war; but the history of that negotiation shows how near we came, after all, to an open rupture, and how slight a circumstance averted the catastrophe.

"When Lord Ashburton arrived at Washington, he took an early day to open the subject of his mission; and with the frankness which marked his whole course throughout that negotiation, he advised Mr. Webster, that the nature of his instructions forbade his yielding any portion of the disputed territory north of the line of highlands claimed by the British Government to be the true boundary. This of course presented the question in a very serious light; and Mr. Webster very promptly informed his Lordship, that he must either recede from this demand, or terminate his mission. As his instructions were peremptory, he was about to close his mission of peace, and war between the two countries appeared inevitable; when Mr. Webster persuaded him to enter into a full examination of the whole question with a view to make himself acquainted with its real merits. This he did in obedience to Mr. W's urgent solicitations; and such was the character of Mr. Webster's representation of the facts, that Lord Ashburton acknowledged his conviction of the injustice of the claim of his Government to the extent insisted upon, and actually agreed to remain at Washington until he could receive additional instructions from his Government, instead of promptly closing his mission as he was authorized to do."

Thus we see that, but for the personal influence of one man, the very mission of peace would only have hastened war! Had public sentiment been what it was fifty years before, those negotiators would have separated at once, and let the parties appeal to the sword.

CONTINUED LIABILITIES TO WAR.—Many suppose we are now safe from all danger of war, and need no more efforts in the cause of peace; but we might as well say there is no need of any more exertions for temperance until we see all around us actually reeling into the gutter. The custom of using ardent spirits, the source of intemperance, still continues; and until that ceases, we must labor in the cause of temperance. So of war. The *principle* of settling national disputes by the sword, is yet retained through Christendom itself; the entire war-system is now ready any moment for its work of blood; and, so long as this system continues, we cannot with safety suspend or relax our exertions in this cause. The magazine is continually liable to explosion; and our only security lies in a public sentiment distinctly and loudly demanding peace.

HOME INTELLIGENCE.

Besides the article, "from experience," which would properly come under this head, we have room for little more. Our Secretary, besides visiting Providence and its vicinity in Rhode Island, and ten or twelve places in Massachusetts, has spent one Sabbath at the Theological Seminary in Andover; a field of usefulness the most important of all, but hitherto far too much neglected. We are glad to learn, that our President, always disposed to such services, has found time to lecture on the subject of peace in some important places in New Hampshire. We also subjoin a few brief extracts from the Secretary's monthly report:

THE RESULT OF ONE DAY'S PREACHING.—"I spent," says our Secretary, "the last Sabbath of the year in Wrentham and Foxborough. In the former place, the cause had been presented for a series of years, but in the